



# U.S. Department of State English Access Microscholarship Program in Morocco

**Introduction** In 2003, the U.S. State Department launched the English Access Microscholarship Program in Morocco. Today, Access is active in more than 85 countries, and more than 90,000 students have benefited from it. Now in its tenth year in Morocco, more than 5600 young people from nearly 50 locations have participated.

**Access Program Goals** The English Access Microscholarship Program provides a foundation of English language skills to economically disadvantaged 13- to 20-year-old students through after-school classes and additional intensive sessions and activities. The program gives participants an opportunity to gain an appreciation of U.S. culture and values, and is intended to increase their ability to participate successfully in the socio-economic development of their countries.



## Short History of Access in Morocco

**2003** The program was conceived in Morocco after the May 2003 bombings in Casablanca. Seventeen boys were selected for the pilot program with the help of the NGO Réseau Maillage in Sidi Moumen.

**2004 – 2005** AMIDEAST began providing instruction to 50 students in Rabat. Then 50 more students started in Sidi Moumen and Bernoussi when AMIDEAST opened in Casablanca.

**2005 – 2006** A total of 196 students at AMIDEAST were joined by 25 in Oujda taught by NGO AGEF Oriental, and 355 students enrolled in American Language Centers in Agadir, Casablanca, Fez, Kenitra, Marrakech, Meknes, Mohamedia, Rabat, Tangier, and Tetouan. Access Morocco now had 596 students.

*Also in 2005, Access became an official Department of State program and Moroccan students met Secretary of State Colin Powell, and other high ranking officials who visited.*

**2006 – 2008** The same partners enrolled 586 new students in the same 11 cities.

**2007 – 2009** Morocco's Access partners, now selected through proposals, included the Moroccan Association of Teachers of English, which helped Access to reach remoter areas. Access was in 20 cities, with 950 students. *Worldwide, there were over 32,000 students in 50 countries.*

**2008 – 2010** Twenty-three new locations made a total of 43 cities with Access and 781 new students.

**2009 – 2011** Seven new locations made a total of 50 cities with Access and 830 new students.

**2010 – 2012** 32 locations in 28 cities and a total of 1185 graduates.

**2011 – 2013** 27 new locations for a total of 1,065 scholarships.

**2012 – 2014** Classes scheduled to start in February in 32 sites for 1080 students.

